

Brixham Urban District Council



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

-oo-

1954

Brixham Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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SANITARY INSPECTOR

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URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXTON

Chairman of the Council

Councillor S. G. Mutter, J.P. (died August 1954)
Councillor A.E. Buley

Public Health Committee

Councillor A. E. Buley (Chairman)
Councillors S. G. Mutter, H. C. Perkins, F. P. Lee, J.P. W. J. Hazlewood,
G. H. Blackmore, N. J. Lidstone, S. C. Goss

Housing Committee

Councillor F. W. H. Park (Chairman)
Councillors S. G. Mutter, A. E. Buley, G. Blackmore, Mrs. A. M. Park,
N. J. Lidstone, G. R. Braddick, S. C. Goss

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council.

T. Owen Davies

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, Assistant County Medical Officer, Port Medical
Officer

"+ D. K. MacTaggart, M.A., M.B., Ch.B (Aberd), D.P.H. (Lond)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer

@+ J. I. Snodgrass, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods, Port Health Inspector,
Housing Officer, and Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts

"+ Francis Lawrence Godfrey, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.

Clerk and Typist for Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector

@ Mrs. S. Michelmore.

@ Part time

" Whole time

+ Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

R E P O R T

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM
FOR 1954

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1954, in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

During the year the health of the District remained satisfactory. The number of cases of notifiable infectious disease being only 6. These were 3 cases of measles, 2 of scarlet fever, and 1 of whooping cough. In addition, there were 12 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The figures for 1953 were 27 cases of notifiable infectious disease, and 11 of tuberculosis.

There has again been a fall in the number of births in Brixham, from 113 in 1953 to 99 in 1954. This gives a crude birth rate of 11.14 per 1,000 population, which compares with 12.83 per 1,000 the previous year, and with a birth rate of 15.2 for England and Wales. When allowance is made for the large number of elderly people who live in Brixham, the figure of 12.48 births per thousand population is arrived at.

There was also a reduction in the number of deaths occurring in Brixham, there being 133 in 1953, and 129 in 1954. This gives a death rate of 14.51 per thousand population, and when corrected according to age and sex of the population 10.59. The rate for the previous year was 15.10 and 11.47 respectively, and the rate for England and Wales as a whole is 11.3.

When considering the vital statistics of Brixham it is as well to keep in mind that only a small population is affected, and that consequently there occur what appear to be quite marked fluctuations in the various totals and rates. These differences and fluctuations should have no undue importance attached to them.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying table.

In conclusion I should like to record my thanks to the members of the Council, and in particular the Chairman and members of the Roads and Sanitary Committee, for their encouragement and support. I should also like to record my grateful appreciation of the work and assistance I have received from your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Godfroy.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MACTAGGART,

Medical Officer of Health

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SECTION AGENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District	5,626 acres
Population, 1951 census	8,752
Population, estimated June 1954	8,890
Number of inhabited houses, 1954	3,020
Rateable Value of District at April 1st 1954 :	
Inside Harbour Rating Area	£54,878
Outside Harbour Rating Area	3,730
	<u>£58,608</u>

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VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

					Male	Female	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	56	43	99				
Legitimate	52	42	94				
Illegitimate	4	1	5				
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			11.14				
Comparability Factor			1.12				
Standardised Birth Rate			12.48				
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	1	0	1				
Legitimate	1	0	1				
Illegitimate	0	0	0				
<u>DEATHS</u>	66	63	129				
Comparability Factor			0.73				
True Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			14.51				
Death Rate standardised according to age and sex of resident population			10.59				
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:							
Legitimate	1	1	2				
Illegitimate	0	0	0				
	1	1	2				
Death Rate per 1,000 live births ...			20.20				

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			Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under four weeks:					
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			0	1	1

Death Rate per 1,000 live births 10.10

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	0
Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	0

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Pneumonia	...	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	
Masles	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	2
Erysipelas	...	0
Whooping Cough	..	1
Dysentery	...	0
Food Poisoning	..	0
		6

Cases removed to Torquay Isolation Hospital ... 5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1954 (as supplied by the Registrar General)

Diseases	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningo-coccal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	2	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	9	15
Coronary disease, angina	11	9	20
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	6	9	15
Other circulatory disease	8	4	12
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	12	19
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	66	63	129

Age
per-
iods

TUBERCULOSIS 1954

	New Cases								Deaths							
	Respiratory				Non-respiratory				Respiratory				Non-respiratory			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0																
1																
5			1													1
15																
25	1		1													
35	3		1													
45			1						1							
55	1		1						1		1					
65	1								1							
and up- wards	1															
	7	5							3	1						1

RAINFALL 1954

January	...	1.36 inches	July	...	2.45 inches
February	...	5.02	August	...	3.85
March	...	4.26	September	...	5.14
April	...	0.50	October	...	3.47
May	...	2.24	November	...	7.66
June	...	2.69	December	...	4.09

Total 42.73 inches

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ending 31st December 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I herewith present my twenty-ninth Annual Report, as required by the Minister of Health.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and
and Inspector of Meat & Foods.

HOUSING, 1954

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total (including the number given separate under (b))

I By Local Authority:

Two bedoomed houses	11
Three-bedroomed houses	45
Four-bedroomed houses	0

II By other authorities

III By other bodies or persons

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

I By the Local Authority	56
(a) For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act 1925	0
(b) For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act 1925	0
(c) For other bodies	0

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1954

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 68
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 103.

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	29
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	53
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	41
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices: Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	41
3.	Action under Statutory powers during the year:	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: (a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV (overcrowding):		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	2	
(2) Number of families dwelling therein,....	3	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	9	
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during year	2	
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ..	2	
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	9	
(d) Particulars of cases in which the dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0	
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	0	

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SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT AND WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - 1954

Number of dwelling-houses completed during the year 1954:

Detached houses	6
Semi-detached houses	53
Terrace houses	0
Bungalows	44
Semi-detached bungalows	6
Semi-bungalows	0
Flats	0
Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1954:	109

Public buildings, workshops etc

Number of houses built during the year for working classes:

For Local Authority	56
By Private effort	53
Number of new houses or flats required for working classes	160
Houses Inspected	65
Cases of overcrowding abated	2
Defective houses repaired	35
Defective floors repaired	9
Defective roofs repaired or renewed	12
Defective yards paved	5
Defective external plastering renewed	11
Defective internal plastering renewed	19
Defective windows repaired	26
Defective stoves repaired	7
Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926:	

During year	0
Total to date	23

DRAINS AND DRAINAGE

Sewer Extensions during year	Nil
Drains examined	139
Defective drains repaired or renewed	28
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings	117
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings	37
Existing W.C.'s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed	9
Defective traps renewed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps	11
Defective W.C.'s repaired	7
Automatic cisterns fixed	2
The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year:	
New baths	153
W.C.'s	162
Lavatory basins	174
Urinals	4
Scullery sinks	146
Septic tanks	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

Rooms fumigated	33
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected	16
Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed	34
Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious diseases	3
Rooms disinfected for tuberculosis	2
Rooms disinfected for verminous condition	28
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	5

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTIONPublic Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Number of butchers shops in the District	8
Other food shops and stores	105
Number of visits to butchers shops	97
Number of visits to other food shops and stores	265

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS

Slaughtering in District (except for Casuals) ceased in January 1940
All meat is received from outside the District.

Weight of Unfit Food Destroyed.

	Tuberculosis lbs.	Other diseases and conditions - lbs.	Total lbs.
Beef	-	300	300
Mutton	-	120	120
Pork	-	7	7
Offals	-	3.28	28
TOTAL	-	455	455

The following foods have been surrendered as unsound:

51 tins meat; 43 tins fish; 56 tins vegetables; 35 tins fruit;
 7 tins milk; 3 tins soup; 1 stone haddock; 14 boxes cheese; 2 tins
 frozen eggs (56 lbs); 42 lbs veal loaf; 31 lbs Luncheon Meat; 192 lbs
 sausages; 140 lbs Bacon;

FOOD POISONING, 1954.

1. Local Authority - Brixham Urban District Year 1954.
2. Food poisoning notifications (corrected) Returns to R.G.
 1st Quarter - nil; 2nd quarter - nil;
 3rd quarter - nil; 4th quarter - nil;
3. Outbreaks due to identified agents. Total outbreaks - nil.
 Total cases - nil
 Outbreaks due to (a) Chemical poisons - nil (b) Salmonella organisms - nil; (c) Staphylococci including toxia - nil; (d) Cl botulinum - nil; (e) other bacteria - nil.
4. Outbreaks of undiscovered causes - total outbreaks - nil;
 total cases - nil.
5. Single cases - agent identified - nil; unknown causes - nil;
 total - nil.

Appendix (d) (2)
 not applicable.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of producers and distributors registered at end of year	46
Producer wholesalers	15
Producer wholesalers/distributors	4
Distributors	27
Number removed from Register	1
Number of visits to dairies etc.	87

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses in District:

Registered	0
Licensed	0
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	0
Number of visits to premises where emergency or occasional slaughtering is carried out	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of noxious or offensive trades in District	0
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NUISANCES.

Complaints of nuisances received	52
Informal notices served	21
Statutory notices served	0
Nuisances abated without written notice	25

SCHOOLS

Number of schools in District:

Public	5
Private	3
Number of schools found defective	0
Number of notices to Managers	0
Number of visits to schools	17

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses in District	6
Number of Inspections	23
Number found defective	2
Number of notices to remedy	2

THE ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, 1952

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream or Treatment Plants in the District and all Ice Cream is prepacked.

SHELL FISH

Samples of crabmeat from one firm packing this article had been found satisfactory and there has been no cause for complaint in connection with the processing of this.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

There are 105 shops in the District engaged in the sale of Foodstuffs. All traders engaged in the manufacture and sale of foodstuffs have been supplied with copies of the Byelaws and other advisory leaflets, and from time to time the advice of this Department is sought when additions or improvements are contemplated to their premises or the installation of new equipment and considerable progress has been made during the year under review.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

No cases were reported during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:

Number of factories and workshops registered in District 43

Promises (1)	Inspec- tions (2)	Number of written notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power	16	25	2
FACTORIES without mechanical power	26	41	3
+ OTHER PREMISES under the Act (Including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers promises)	1	1	
+ Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories	43	67	5

2. Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Ren- diced (3)	Refer- red to H.M. Insp- ector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	2	2		
Overcrowding (S2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	1	1		
Ineffective ventilation of floors (S6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective	2	2		
Not separate for sexes				
Other offences				
	5	5		

Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops) (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) (a)	Number of Council houses found to be infested	2
	Number of Council houses disinfested	2
(b)	Number of other houses found to be infested	5
	Number of other houses disinfected	5
(2)	Spraying with approved insecticide after removing wallpaper, skirting etc.	
(3)	No action is taken before the removal of the tenants belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.	
(4)	Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.	
(5)	Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleaning.	

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.
(Particulars of Registration)

Number of Licences granted to store Petroleum Spirit	23
Number of Licences granted to store Carbide of Calcium	0
Number of Licences granted to store Mixed Explosives	27
Number of Licences granted to store Gunpowder and Mixed Explosives in Magazines	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919
Infestation Order 1944

The agreement with the Dartmouth Corporation for their Operator to carry out Rodent Control in Brixham on alternate weeks, is proving satisfactory, and further progress has been made in the control by block treatment of properties. The sewer treatment has been carried out. Pest baiting and maintenance has been continued. The public are making good use of the service in private dwellings and owners of business premises are co-operating in treatment measures.

As a result of operations during the year 719 dead rats were found (including 13 ship rats) and it is estimated that 1053 others were destroyed. 93 dead mice were found, and 355 estimated destroyed. 372 visits were made to private, 31 business premises, and farms.

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.
Details of Shipping.

Entering the Port Health District of Brixham and Record of Inspection for the year 1954, ending 31st December

1. Amount of shipping entering the port during the year (Table A)

	Number	Nett tonnage	Numbers Inspected		Numbers reported to be defective	Number of orders issued
			By Port M.O.H.	By Port San. Ins.		
FOREIGN { Steamers Motors (Sailing	not available		4	17	2	2
TOTAL FOREIGN			4	17	2	2
COASTWISE { Steamers Motors (Sailing	not available		11	45	5	5
TOTAL COASTWISE			11	45	5	5
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	not available		15	62	7	7
BRIXHAM MOTOR	49			frequent inspections made		

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.
 (Table B)

- (a) Passenger Traffic - No passengers have landed or embarked during the year.
- (b) Cargo Traffic - Principal Imports - Oil. Principal Exports - Oil.
- (c) Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive. Various foreign ports with and for oil bunkers.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

- (1) Source of supply Water is supplied from the town reservoirs both to the port and shipping.

- (2) Hydrants and hose-pipes are kept in lockers when not in use.

IV. PORT HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

- (1) Declarations of Health are handed to the masters of ships on arrival of the staff of H.M. Customs.
- (2) The boats of the local shipping company are available for boarding vessels on arrival.
- (3) Notification of any vessel requiring special attention is received by H.M. Customs or the local shipping company, and is telephoned to the Public Health Office.
- (4) A mooring station for infected vessels is provided at the entrance to the Outer Harbour.
- (5) The Port Medical Officer is prepared to grant the usual standing exceptions to
 - (a) All other unhealthy vessels other than those included in Articles 12 and 14(1)
 - (b) Vessels otherwise healthy which have arrived from listed ports in infected areas.
- (6) In cases in which persons have to be notified as proceeding to this area from a vessel on which infectious disease has occurred, it is the practice for the Medical Officer to examine the person on arrival and at intervals, as required by the regulations.
- (7) (a) A waiting room is provided on the Pier, where persons could be examined.
 - (b) The necessary materials for fumigation of cabins, bunks, etc. are provided by the Public Health Department.
 - (c) Temporary accommodation for the purpose of the regulations would be provided at one of the Hospitals in the District.
 - (d) Hospital accommodation for Plague, Cholera, etc. is provided by the Devon County Council.
 - (e) Ambulance transport for infectious cases (d) is provided by the Devon County Council.
 - (f) The Local Port Medical Officer would be responsible for the supervision of contacts.
- (8) Pathological and bacteriological examinations would be carried out by the County Medical Department.
- (9) Ditto.
- (10) Treatment of venereal disease is available at Torquay Hospital Clinic.
- (11) Arrangements for the interment of the dead are made by the local agents for the shipping company concerned, in conjunction with the Port Medical Officer.
- (12) Nil.

Table C - No cases of infectious sickness have been landed during the year

Table D - No reports made.

V. Measures Against Rodents.

- (1) (a) Ships in the Port are inspected for the presence of Rats
- (b) The quays, wharves and stores are also inspected at regular intervals.
- (2) Rat guards are fitted to ships.
- (3) (a) Arrangements would be made with Plymouth, if required.
- (b) Baits are laid in stores etc.
- (4) Reports received from Masters, occupiers, etc.
- (5) Stores built of stone and sheet iron.

Table E. - No information available.

Table F - Approximately 129 brown rats and 13 black rats.

Table G - Nil

Table H - Not an approved Port

Table J - No defects notified.

VII FOOD INSPECTED.

- (1) No food imports
- (2) No shell-fish bed or laying in the Port Health District.
- (3) No samples taken.

I wish to express my very best thanks to the Officers of H.M. Customs, and the Harbour Master, for their co-operation and assistance.

F. L. GODFREY

Port Health Inspector.

